May a Christian Resist the One Who Wrongs Him?

Do you think it is appropriate for a born-again Christian to serve in the military, work in structures such as the police, gendarmerie, or as a security guard (bodyguard), or to swear an oath to defend their country with their life? Would you do this if asked?

 Answer: No — Explanation: A born-again Christian who lives in obedience to Christ, cannot accept involvement in structures that involve violence, coercion, or loyalty to worldly authorities. The Lord Jesus said, "Love your enemies..." (Matthew 5:44). He also commanded, "Do not swear at all..." (Matthew 5:34). Therefore:

• Participation in the military, police, or other force structures contradicts the call to peace, gentleness, and nonresistance.

• Taking an oath to defend one's country at the cost of one's life implies a loyalty that conflicts with obedience to Christ.

• A Christian is called to be a witness to peace, not to war or worldly authority.

Refusal to participate in such structures and to take the oath is a sign of a sensitive conscience and a life transformed by the Holy Spirit.

 Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation: To consider it appropriate for a Christian to serve in military or law enforcement structures and take an oath to defend the country with their lives contradicts the spirit of the Gospel. These institutions:

• Operate on the basis of force and coercion, which contradicts the commandment to love one's enemies.

• Require obedience in matters that contradict the values of the Kingdom of God.

• Ask you to break the Word, which explicitly forbids oaths (Do not swear by heaven, or by earth, or by any other oath. James 5:12)

What's more, if you make such an oath, but in your heart you know that you will never use force—even when asked to—then not only are you in a position of moral compromise, but you also become a liar. Your oath becomes a form of hypocrisy, because you are promising something you do not intend to do.

This is not a sign of courage or faith, but proof that you have not been born again. Agreeing to take an oath shows that you have not received the teaching of the Lord Jesus, who says, "But I tell you, do not swear at all..." (Matthew 5:34). This means that

the ground that should receive the Word of Christ is trampled. New life is characterized by good soil that receives the Word and bears fruit.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "Are You Truly Born Again? – Biblical Questionnaire", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.